

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 5, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment revises several paragraphs in the specification. It also modifies original claims 1 and 3-5 in order to improve their form under US claim-drafting practice. In addition, the Amendment adds new claims 6-8 to further protect the invention. Claim 6 is the only one of the new claims that is independent.

The rejection of the original claims for non-enablement, in section 2 of the Office Action, is respectfully traversed. The specification discloses that analog signals from an image sensor are converted by an A/D converter to become a digital image data (see page 4, lines 8-10). An A/D converter can be included in an analog front end (AFE).

An ordinarily skilled person who would read the present application would realize that, after an optical scanner has been turned on, the image sensor in the AFE of the optical module 20 scans the first reference white board 30. The light source is not warmed up immediately after the optical scanner has been turned on, so the measured values for the first reference light board 30 may be less than a pre-set value (for example, 240) when the light source has attained its full brightness.

Next, the optical module 20 moves in the Y direction, and the second reference white board 40 is sensed. The sensed value of the white board when the optical module 20 is at position Y=0 can be used as a basis for comparing the sensed values when module 20 moves to positions Y=1, 2, 3, and so forth. This permits brightness variations in the Y direction to be calculated as the light source warms up. That is, the value measured when

Y=0 can be compared with the pre-set value (such as 240) as the position of the module 30 in the Y direction increases. Software can be used to compensate the image data for variations in brightness as the light source warms up; it is unnecessary to delay a scan until the light level has stabilized.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the application would have enabled an ordinarily skilled person to make new invention defined by independent claim 1. New independent claim 6 does not specify whether the output of the optical module is analog or digital, and does not mention an analog front end. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the concerns expressed in section 2 of the Office Action are not relevant with respect to claim 6.

In the absence of rejection on the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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